



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

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January 30, 2023

## Message from the DIAA Executive Director

The annual report, as required by Delaware Code Title 14 Education Chapter 3. Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association, is intended to provide the Governor, the General Assembly and the director and librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council with a report summarizing the work of the association. The report will share information about the association, issues affecting high school athletics in Delaware and accomplishments from 2022. A few highlights of the annual report include:

- Sport team and individual champions
- Dale Farmer State Champion in Sportsmanship Award Winners
- Harry Roberts Senior Scholar-Athlete Award winners
- Fall 2022 Student Leadership Conference
- Restructuring of DIAA Regulations to include coaching out of season regulations
- Student athlete participation



DIAA Board of Directors and office staff will continue to review regulations, policies and procedures, assess equitable and inclusive opportunities when considering programming and initiatives, evaluate facilities to conduct championships and continue to seek ways to be more efficient and a resource for member schools and stakeholders with a student athlete-centered approach.

Donna J. Polk  
DIAA Executive Director

*Education-Based Athletics*

## About DIAA

The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) was established in 2002 after operating as Delaware Association of Secondary Administrators (DASA) and Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association (DSSAA). The association receives its authority by the General Assembly and oversees a membership of 125 schools. Of the 63 high schools, 28 are traditional district, 11 charter, six vo-tech and 18 private. Of the 62 middle schools, 36 are traditional public, 14 charter and 12 are private.

The DIAA is organized under the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). DIAA regulates and oversees the conduct of interscholastic athletics in the state of Delaware and is governed by a Governor- appointed Board of Directors, which consists of superintendents, school board members, principals, athletic directors or coaches, non-public school head of schools/school administrator or coach, Secretary of Education designee, physician and public members.

The DIAA office is located at the John W. Collette Education Resource Center, 35 Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover, DE 19904. Phone – (302) 857-3365 Email - [diaa@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:diaa@doe.k12.de.us)  
Website - <https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/>

## Purpose

The purpose of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) is to preserve and promote the educational significance of interscholastic athletics; ensure that interscholastic sports remain compatible with the educational mission of member schools; provide for fair competition between member schools; promote sportsmanship and ethical behavior; establish and enforce standards of conduct for athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators; protect the physical well-being of athletes; and promote healthy adolescent lifestyles.

The General Assembly intends for the DIAA to work in consultation and cooperation with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) to implement this charge.

## Duties, Powers and Authority

In addition to the purpose above, DIAA has the authority to establish annual membership fees, establish standing committees, monitor and interpret its rules and regulations, investigate and penalize violations to its regulations, conduct hearings, act upon requests for any waiver of rules and regulations, and establish fees for officiating contests and competitions.

## DIAA Staff

DIAA staff run the day-to-day operations for the association. DIAA staff provide support to ensure the following responsibilities are met through oversight and overall management: DIAA Board of Directors management, compliance (eligibility, waivers, rules interpretation), fiscal management, contracts, grants, website4sports championships liaison/website management, office/business operations, legislative affairs, rules and regulations, media interviews and credentials, ticket management, tournament operations, championship rosters, game programs, tournament brackets, tournament manuals, committee liaisons, committee applications and roster management, calendar and schedule of events, social media, officials registration and testing, liaison for officials and Center of Officials Services (Dragonfly), sportsmanship, rule clinics, NFHS rule books, DIAA publications, education and leadership programming, and conferences and awards, among other duties.

## Composition of the DIAA Board/Staff

With the amended statute that took effect October 2022, the DIAA Board consists of 22 voting members:

- 1) Three school district superintendents/assistant superintendents who must represent a school in a different county.
- 2) Three representatives of school district boards of education who must represent a school in a different county.
- 3) Three public school principals/assistant principals who must represent a school in a different county.
- 4) Two public school athletic directors or coaches who must represent a school in a different county.
- 5) Three nonpublic school representatives of which one shall be a head of school or equivalent, one shall be a secondary school administrator and one shall either be a secondary school athletic director or coach.
- 6) The Secretary of Education or Secretary's designee.
- 7) One physician licensed by the Delaware Board of Medical Practices and knowledgeable about sports medicine.
- 8) Six public members
  - a) Each county must be represented by 2 members who reside in that county.
  - b) One member must be a parent of a current or recent student athlete from a member school.
  - c) Each member must be a Delaware resident for at least 3 years.
  - d) Each member must be knowledgeable about athletics.
  - e) A member may not be an employee of a member school.
  - f) A member may not have a material financial interest in providing goods or services to the Association or a member school.

The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints all voting members.

During the 2022 year, there were six appointments replacing vacant or members with expiring terms and one member submitted a resignation. There are two board members with expiring terms who have been held over until their replacements are named. The following board members' terms have expired: 2020 Douglas Thompson and 2022 Ted Laws. There are five vacant positions on the board with three positions expected for confirmation in January 2023. The remaining two vacant positions to be filled are one school board member from Sussex County and one nonpublic school head of school or equivalent representative.

## Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association



**CHAIR**  
Michael Douglas Thompson  
Public Member  
New Castle County



**VICE-CHAIR**  
Mark Robinson  
Athletic Director  
St. Georges Tech H.S.



Michael Rodriguez  
Department of Education  
Associate Secretary



Ivan Neal  
Public Member  
Sussex County



Dr. William O'Hanlon  
Assistant Principal  
Brandywine H.S.



Ted Laws  
School Board Member  
Colonial School District



Dorrell Green  
Superintendent  
Red Clay School District



Dr. Sherry Kijowski  
Principal  
Caesar Rodney H.S.



Dr. Amelia Hodges  
Superintendent  
POLYTECH School District



Matt Smith  
Athletic Director  
Saint Mark's H.S.



Kevin Smith  
Athletic Director  
Cape Henlopen H.S.



Allison Alpaugh  
Assistant Principal  
Woodbridge H.S.



Robert Watson, Jr.  
Public Member  
New Castle County



Dr. Bradley Bley  
Medical Member



Joseph Papili  
President  
Saint Elizabeth H.S.



Jason Miller  
School Board Member  
Milford School District



Lenny Richardson  
Public Member  
Sussex County



Faye Wheeler  
Administrative Assistant



Jed Bell  
Coordinator of Interscholastic Athletics



Donna Polk  
Executive Director



## 2022 DIAA Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

Chairperson – Doug Thompson  
Vice Chairperson – Mark Robinson

### Term Expires

### PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

#### *NEW CASTLE COUNTY*

W.T. [Ted] Laws	School Board Member, Colonial School District	2022
Dorrell Green	Superintendent, Red Clay School District	2024
Dr. William O’Hanlon	Assistant Principal, Brandywine High School	2025
Mark Robinson	Coach, St. Georges Tech High School	2024

#### *KENT COUNTY*

Jason Miller	School Board Member, Milford School District	2024
Dr. Amelia Hodges	Superintendent, POLYTECH School District	2024
Dr. Sherry Kijowski	Principal, Caesar Rodney High School	2024

#### *SUSSEX COUNTY*

Vacant	Superintendent, School District	----
Vacant	School Board Member, School District	----
Allison Alpaugh	Assistant Principal, Woodbridge High School	2025
Kevin Smith	Athletic Director, Cape Henlopen High School	2024

### NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

Vacant	Head of School	----
Joseph Papili	President, St. Elizabeth High School	2025
	Athletic Director, Saint Mark’s High School	2024

### PUBLIC MEMBERS

<i>New Castle County</i>	<i>Kent County</i>	<i>Sussex County</i>
Douglas Thompson (2020)	Vacant	Ivan Neal (2025)
Robert Watson, Jr. (2023)	Vacant	Lenny Richardson (2025)

### MEDICAL MEMBER

Dr. Bradley Bley (Indefinite)

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Michael Rodriguez	DOE Associate Secretary, Secretary Designee	(Indefinite)
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In January 2022, the DIAA staff consisted of Donna Polk, executive director, Stephanie Mark, coordinator of interscholastic athletics and secretary Tanya Reed. James “Jed” Bell replaced Stephanie Mark in June 2022, Starr Otu replaced Tanya Reed in July 2022 and Faye Wheeler replaced Starr Otu in January 2023. DIAA contracted with Monique Smith to assist with student services planning and programming and obtaining speakers for leadership/training opportunities for the association and Evan Courtney to assist with DIAA operations. Associate Secretary of Education Michael Rodriguez is the Department of Education representative on the board and provides administrative oversight of DIAA staff on behalf of the Department of Education. Laura Makransky, deputy attorney general, is assigned to represent the board.

## Legislative Action

DIAA received notification in June 2019 from the Joint Legislative and Oversight Sunset Committee (JLOSC) that a comprehensive legislative oversight and sunset review would be conducted. DIAA remains in hold over status as of this report and will report to JLOSC when notified.

JLOSC review of DIAA recommended the following updates to DIAA statute which went into effect October 26, 2022:

- Establish term limits for certain DIAA Board members of no more than three, three-year terms for a total of nine years.
- Add language to address the removal of a board member for gross inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance.
- Change DIAA Board member composition to add a third school district superintendent or assistant superintendent to create equitable representation among all 3 counties in the state; add a third nonpublic school representative; ensure that one of the six public members is a parent of a current or recent student athlete from a member school; and make the Department of Education member a voting member.
- Clarify quorum and number of votes required to approve an act of the DIAA Board.
- Authorize DIAA to pursue sponsorship opportunities and other non-tournament related revenue streams, and the purchase of general liability insurance relating to the rental of non-state venues for DIAA-sponsored events.
- Clarify when a member's county of residence is a qualification versus the county in which the school the member is representing is a qualification.
- Make technical corrections throughout DIAA's statute, to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual. Among the technical corrections is correction of references to the “state Board” when the references are intended to use the defined term “State Board” for the State Board of Education.

## Rules and Regulations

The DIAA, in consultation and cooperation with the DOE, develops rules and regulations relating to high school and middle school interscholastic athletics for all Delaware public and charter schools, and such Delaware private schools that elect to become members of DIAA.

Links to the regulations are available on the DIAA website at:

<https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/handbook/>.

The following changes were made to the regulations during 2022:

- January
  - 14 DE Admin. Code 1006 Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association – Amended section 9.0 Waiver of DIAA Rules and Regulations section related to general procedures and rules.
- September
  - 14 DE Admin. Code 1006 Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association – Repealed. The regulation provides DIAA Board of Directors' procedural rules concerning conflicts of interest, committees, the executive director's responsibilities, amending regulations, reporting violations of interscholastic athletic regulations, game protests, the DIAA

Board's investigative procedure, waiver requests, and appeals to the DIAA Board. In addition, the regulation sets forth the process for becoming a DIAA member school, the annual membership fees, and requirements for heads of DIAA member schools. Many of the sections of this regulation are proposed to be repealed

because they will be incorporated into new regulations. Specifically, Sections 2.0 and 5.0 and subsection 7.1 will be incorporated into a new regulation, 14 DE Admin. Code 1024 Member Schools. Subsection 3.1 and 7.2, Sections 4.0, 6.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0, and the last sentence of Section 11.0 will be incorporated into a new regulation, 14 DE Admin. Code 1020 DIAA Board Procedures. Subsection 3.2 will be incorporated into a new regulation, 14 DE Admin. Code 1021 DIAA Committees. Subsection 1.1 will not be incorporated into a new regulation because the DIAA Board is statutorily empowered to implement the regulations governing interscholastic regulations (14 Del.C. §§304(3)-(5)), and the language that is being repealed is not consistent with the statute and is not necessary. The first four sentences of Section 11.0 will not be incorporated into a new regulation because that language is in a statute (14 Del.C. §312) and is not necessary in a regulation.

- 14 DE Admin Code 1008 DIAA Junior High and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics – Certain sections repealed. The following sections of this regulation are proposed to be repealed because they will be incorporated into new regulations. Section 3.0 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1034. Section 4.0 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1035. Subsection 5.1 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1024. Subsection 5.2 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1035. Section 6.0 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1040. Subsections 7.1 through 7.4 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1042. Subsection 7.6 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1040. Subsection 8.1 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1024. Subsections 8.2 through 8.4 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1043. Subsection 7.5 will not be incorporated into a new regulation because the Board found that student teachers would fall under the requirements for certified, emergency, or volunteer coaches, so a separate subsection is not necessary.
- 14 DE Admin Code 1009 DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics – Certain sections repealed. The following sections of this regulation are proposed to be repealed because they will be incorporated into new regulations. Section 3.0 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1034. Section 4.0 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1035. Subsection 5.1 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1024. Subsection 5.2 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1035. Section 6.0 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1040. Subsections 7.1 through 7.4 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1042. Subsection 7.6 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1040. Subsection 8.1 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1024. Subsections 8.2 through 8.4 will be incorporated into 14 DE Admin. Code 1043. Subsection 7.5 will not be incorporated into a new regulation because the Board found that student teachers would fall under the requirements for certified, emergency, or volunteer coaches, so a separate subsection is not necessary.
- 14 DE Admin Code 1020 DIAA Board Procedures – The adopted regulation sets forth rules of practice and procedure of the DIAA Board of Directors. The proposed regulation includes specifying the content of the regulation in Section 1.0 and incorporating defined terms from 14 DE Admin. Code 1006 into Section 2.0. Additionally, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing sections from 14 DE Admin. Code 1006 and incorporate them into this new regulation. Specifically, proposed Section 3.0 is formerly subsection 3.1; proposed Section 4.0 is formerly Section 4.0; proposed Section 5.0 is

based on Section 6.0 but it has been revised to reflect the current practice; proposed Section 6.0 is formerly subsection 7.2; proposed Section 7.0 is formerly subsection 7.2.2 and Section 8.0 and has been revised to reflect the current practice; and proposed Sections 9.0, 10.0, and 11.0 are formerly Sections 9.0, 10.0, and 11.0, respectively. Proposed Section 8.0 is new and is based on the hearing procedures used in hearings on waiver requests. It sets forth the hearing procedures for hearings that do not involve requests for waivers of the regulations.

- 14 DE Admin Code 1021 DIAA Committees - The adopted regulation sets forth rules of practice and procedure of the concerning the DIAA Board of Directors' committees. The DIAA Board of Directors is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing subsection 3.2 from 14 DE Admin. Code 1006 and incorporate it into this new regulation. In addition, the DIAA Board of Directors proposes to add two committees (boys' volleyball and classification), increase the number of members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Subcommittee, specify the composition for sports committees, and increase the length of the term by one year.
- 14 DE Admin Code 1024 DIAA Member Schools - The regulation concerns the requirements for DIAA Member Schools. The adopted regulation includes specifying the content of the regulation in Section 1.0 and incorporating defined terms from existing regulations into Section 2.0. Additionally, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing sections from 14 DE Admin. Code 1006, 14 DE Admin. Code 1008, and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009 and incorporate them into this new regulation. Specifically, proposed Section 3.0 is formerly subsections 2.1 and 2.2 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1006; proposed Section 4.0 is formerly subsection 2.3 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1006 and includes a proposed new change in subsection 4.1.2; proposed Section 5.0 is formerly subsection 2.5 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1006; proposed Section 6.0 is formerly subsection 7.1 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1006; proposed Section 7.0 is formerly subsection 8.1 in 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 8.0 is formerly subsection 5.1 in 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 9.0 is formerly subsection 2.4 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1006; and proposed Section 10.0 is formerly Section 5.0 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1006.
- 14 DE Admin Code 1034 DIAA Health and Safety Requirements - The regulation provides health and safety requirements that are designed to protect the physical well-being of student athletes and to promote healthy, adolescent lifestyles in accordance with 14 Del.C. §301. The adopted regulation includes specifying the content of the regulation in Section 1.0 and incorporating defined terms from existing regulations into Section 2.0. Additionally, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing subsections from 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009 and incorporate them into this new regulation. Specifically, proposed Section 3.0 is formerly subsection 3.1 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 4.0 is formerly subsection 3.2 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 5.0 is formerly subsection 3.3 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 6.0 is formerly subsection 3.3 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008; and proposed Section 7.0 is formerly subsection 3.4 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009. In addition, subsections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, which concern physical examinations, and Section 8.0, which requires certain certifications for individuals who oversee Workouts, Conditioning Programs, Open Gym Programs, and Informal Instruction, are new.
  - 14 DE Admin Code 1035 In-Season Athletic Activities and Contact - The regulation sets forth the requirements for athletic activities and contact during the period of time from the beginning of the season until the last scheduled date for DIAA

championships for the sport's season. The adopted regulation includes specifying the content of the regulation in Section 1.0 and incorporating new and existing defined terms into Section 2.0. Additionally, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing subsections from 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009 and incorporate them into this new regulation. Specifically, proposed Section 3.0 is formerly subsection 4.1 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 4.0 is formerly subsection 4.2 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 5.0 is formerly subsection 4.3 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; and proposed Section 6.0 is formerly subsection 5.2 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009. In addition, subsection 5.4, which concerns student athletes participating on a non-school team or in a non-school event, is new.

- 14 DE Admin Code 1040 Out-of-Season and Summer Athletic Activities and Contact – The new regulation provides the requirements for athletic activities and contact out-of-season, during the period of time from the end of the season until the next official starting practice date for a particular sport, and in the summer, during the period of time from the last scheduled date for DIAA spring sport championships to August 1st for both the middle and high school levels. The adopted regulation includes specifying the content and purpose of the regulation in Section 1.0; incorporating new and existing defined terms into Section 2.0; specifying the requirements for open gym programs in Section 3.0; specifying the requirements for individual and team workouts and conditioning programs in Section 4.0; specifying the requirements for school-sponsored informal instruction in Section 5.0; adding a section concerning noninstructional meetings in Section 6.0; specifying the requirements for school camps and clinics in Section 7.0; specifying the requirements for commercial camps and clinics in Section 8.0; specifying the requirements for non-school athletic activities, programs, and teams in Section 9.0; and adding a section concerning violations and penalties in Section 10.0. The proposed regulation, 14 DE Admin. Code 1040, is intended to replace Section 6.0 and subsection 7.6 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009. As a result, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal Section 6.0 and subsection 7.6 from 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009.
- 14 DE Admin Code 1042 Coaches - The regulation provides certain requirements for coaches at DIAA Member Schools. The adopted regulation includes specifying the content of the regulation in Section 1.0 and incorporating new and existing defined terms into Section 2.0. Additionally, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing sections from 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009 and incorporate them into this new regulation. Specifically, proposed Section 3.0 is formerly subsection 7.1 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 4.0 is formerly subsection 7.2 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 5.0 is formerly subsection 7.3 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; and proposed Section 6.0 is formerly subsection 7.4 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009. In addition, the proposed regulation adds the requirement that certified and emergency coaches hold current AED and first aid certification to subsections 3.3 and 4.2; adds the requirement that volunteer coaches hold current CPR, AED, and first aid certification to subsection 5.2; and replaces "Heads Up Football Training" with "certified football" in Section 6.0.
- 14 DE Admin Code 1043 Officials - The regulation provides requirements for DIAA-recognized officials' associations, requirements for officials who officiate at DIAA Member Schools, and the fees for officiating contests and competitions. The adopted

regulation includes specifying the content of the regulation in Section 1.0 and incorporating new and existing defined terms into Section 2.0. Additionally, the Board is simultaneously proposing to repeal existing sections from 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009 and incorporate them into this new regulation. Specifically, proposed Section 3.0 is formerly subsection 8.2 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; proposed Section 4.0 is formerly subsection 8.3 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009; and proposed Section 5.0 is formerly subsection 8.4 of 14 DE Admin. Code 1008 and 14 DE Admin. Code 1009. In addition, the proposed regulation increases the fees for officiating contests and competitions for the 2022-23 school year, adds a travel fee, and specifies the fees for officiating scrimmages, based on a request the DIAA Board of Directors received from the Delaware Association of Athletic Directors ("DAAD") and that was presented to the Board by DAAD and Delaware Interscholastic Officials Committee.

## Waiver Request of Regulation

During the 2022 calendar year, the DIAA Board of Directors heard 71 requests for relief from DIAA Regulations. The DIAA Board approved 90 percent of requests heard (64/71). Fifty-nine of the 71 requests were eligibility waiver requests of DIAA regulations. Of those, the board approved 52 and denied 7. 31 of the 59 waivers were temporary waivers granted by the executive director and approved by the board. Please see spreadsheet below to see the complete list of requests heard by the board.

Waiver Request of Regulation	Board Heard Waiver	Executive Director Interim Ratified by Board	Interim Waivers Not Ratified by the Board Heard Waiver	Appeal Pending		Action - Approved	Action - Denied	Action - Appeal to State Board of Education	Total
Eligibility Waiver	21	31	7	1		52	7		59
Member Schools Request to Use 8th Grader at HS Level	11					11			11
Season Start Date	1					1			1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>71</b>

## Membership & Participation

Membership in DIAA continues to be a worthwhile investment for Delaware schools. DIAA's education-based interscholastic athletics mission is in harmony with the mission of its member schools. When DIAA was formed in July of 2002, it had 71 members (48 high schools and 23 middle schools). DIAA membership is currently 125 members (63 high schools and 62 middle schools).

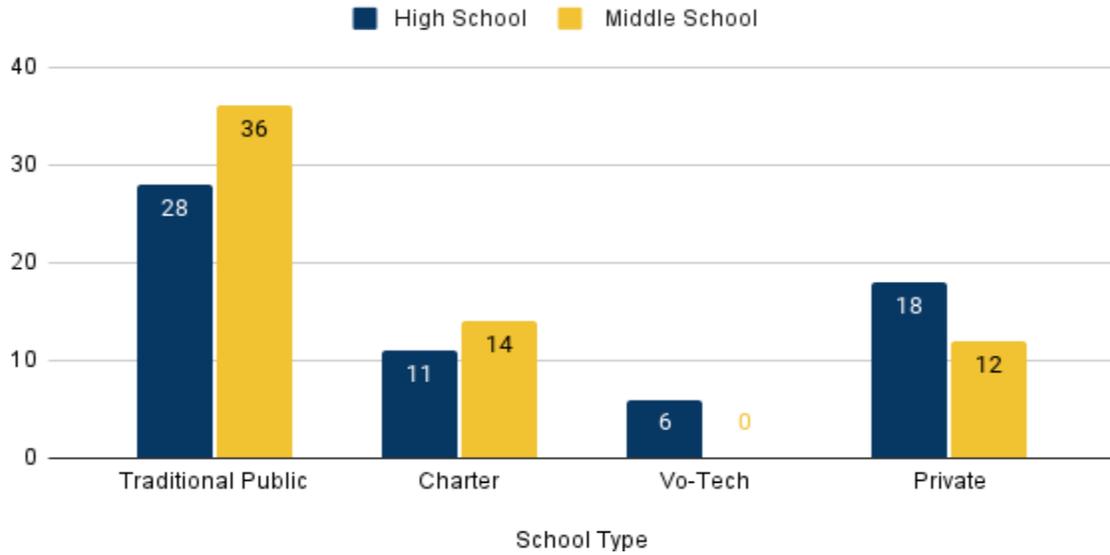
Participation in interscholastic athletics represents an important part of the educational experience of Delaware middle and high school students. During the 2021-2022 school year, 25,965 students participated in interscholastic athletics at the high school level (14,795 male and 11,170 female). The rate of participation by female students stands at 43 percent and 57 percent by male. Participation in interscholastic athletics is thought by many educators to be a prime motivator for many students to stay in school, achieve academic success and learn life skills. The full listing of participants by sport and gender and the number of schools sponsoring at least one team in that sport is shown below.

DIAA Participation Summary			
SPORT	BOYS	GIRLS	SCHOOLS (B/G)
Baseball	1300	3	50
Basketball	1560	889	53/55
Unified Basketball	139	64	13
Cross Country	873	694	52/53
Field Hockey	N/A	1312	49
Football	2454	11	46
Unified Flag Football	88	30	9
Golf	351	94	44
Lacrosse	1287	943	40/36
Soccer	1918	1462	52/54
Softball	N/A	973	45
Swimming & Diving	535	649	40/41
Tennis	442	571	34/37
Track – Indoor	867	739	38/38
Track – Outdoor	1628	1083	45/46
Track – Unified	42	29	8
Volleyball	345	1569	19/56
Wrestling	966	55	48
<b>Total (25965)</b>	<b>14795</b>	<b>11170</b>	

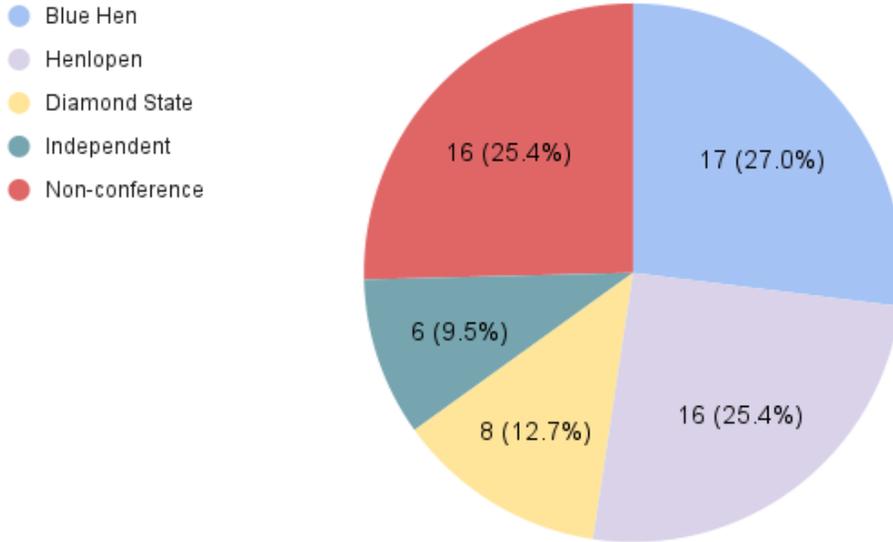
Year	Total	Boys	Girls
<b>2021-2022</b>	25,965	14,795	11,170
<b>2020-2021</b>	19,456	10,801	8,655
<b>2019-2020</b>	28,909	16,076	12,833
<b>2018-2019</b>	28,079	15,980	12,099

## DIAA by the Numbers

### DIAA Member Schools



### School Conference Membership Affiliation



#### DIAA Affiliated Associations

- Delaware Association of Athletic Directors (DAAD)
- Coaches Associations
- Delaware Interscholastic Officials Committee (DIOC)
- Delaware Athletic Trainers Association (DATA)

### Meetings of the Association

The DIAA Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. The Annual Meeting of the entire DIAA occurs the third Thursday of January. In 2022, DIAA Board of Directors held 16 board meetings (12 regular monthly scheduled meetings and four additional meetings). Two meetings occurred in February and March to review 1009 proposed regulations and the Public Integrity Commission opinion, one in October to review DIAA Strategic Plan and receive Legal Training for DIAA Board of Directors and one in December to conduct waiver hearings). Agendas and minutes of all Board meetings are posted on the State of Delaware Public Meeting Calendar (<https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/>) and the DIAA webpage: ([https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/bod/bod\\_meetings/agendas\\_and\\_minutes/](https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/bod/bod_meetings/agendas_and_minutes/)).

## Standing Committees

The DIAA has a total of 28 committees. About 400 volunteers, without whom DIAA could not accomplish its mission, make up these committees. There are standing committees for Rules and Regulations, Sportsmanship, Officials, Unified Sports, Sports Medicine, Student Athlete Development, Student Athlete Advisory, Scheduling, Classification and Awards as well as 18 sport-specific committees. These standing and sport committees operate under the Freedom of Information Act. During 2022, 63 committee meetings were held.

The committees and their chairs are as follows:

- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee - Dr. Bradley Bley
- Rules and Regulations Committee – Dr. Matthew Donovan
- Sportsmanship Committee – David Baylor
- Officials Committee - Chris Muscara
- Unified Sports – Jon Buzby
- Student-Athlete Development Committee – Dr. James Connor
- Student-Athlete Advisory Subcommittee – TBD
- Scheduling – TBD
- Classification – TBD
- Awards - TBD
- Cross Country Committee - George Pepper
- Field Hockey Committee - Sharyn Wingate
- Football Committee - James Comegys
- Boys’ Soccer Committee - Bob Bussiere
- Girls’ Volleyball Committee - Nancy Griskowitz
- Boys’ Basketball Committee - Brian Fahey
- Girls’ Basketball Committee - Ruth Lajoie
- Swimming and Diving Committee - Mike Hart
- Track & Field Committee - Charlie Pollard
- Wrestling Committee - Buddy Lloyd
- Baseball Committee - Mike Hart
- Softball Committee - Greg Shivery
- Tennis Committee – John Taylor
- Golf Committee – Kathy Franklin
- Boys’ Lacrosse Committee – Eric Torbert
- Girls’ Lacrosse Committee- Debbie Windett
- Girls’ Soccer Committee- Robert Beron
- Boys Volleyball Committee - TBD

The sport committees work with the DIAA office staff to perform tasks related to running DIAA state tournaments resulting in 35 State Championship titles awarded in 17 boys’, 15 girls’ and 3 Unified sports. Other functions include informing the DIAA Board of Directors of issues and initiatives affecting each sport and related sports projects.

## Rules Interpreters

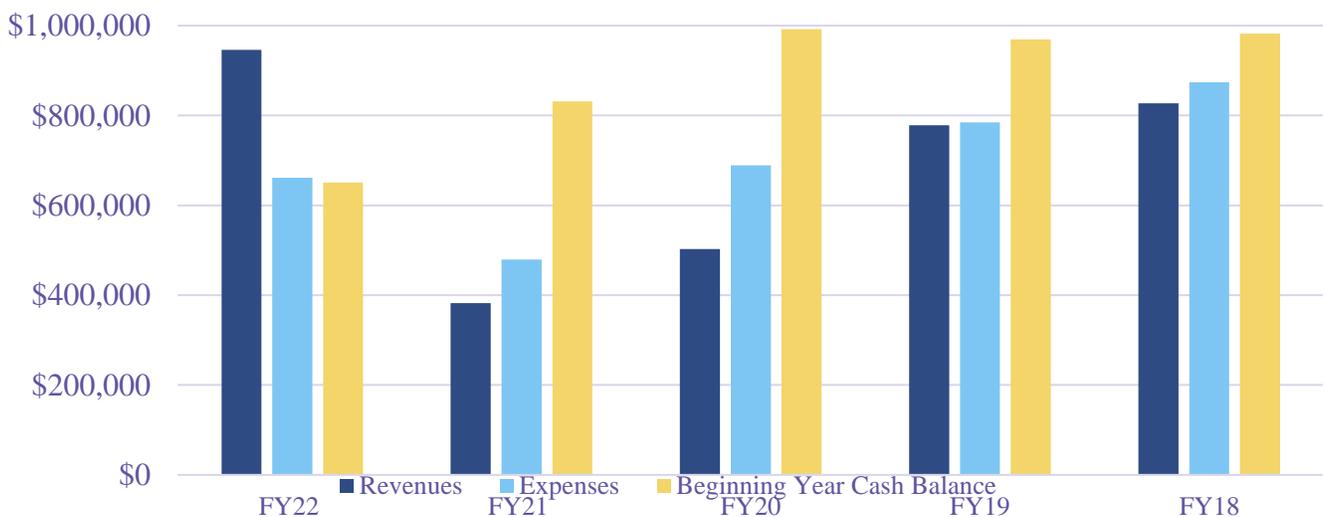
DIAA appoints rules interpreters to assist member schools, coaches and officials in the proper interpretation and application of National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and DIAA playing rules. The 2022 DIAA rules interpreters were:

- Baseball - Tom Disharoon
- Basketball - Layne Drexel
- Field Hockey - Vicki Rhodes
- Football - Andrew Bero
- Golf - *Partner with Delaware State Golf Association*
- Lacrosse, Boys' - JP Bennett
- Lacrosse, Girls' – Jill Fitzcharles
- Soccer – Robert Cordrey
- Softball - Diane Carden
- Swimming/Diving - Kent Steeves
- Tennis – *Partner with United States Tennis Association*
- Track and Field/Cross Country – Pat Pollack
- Volleyball – Wendy Kite
- Wrestling - Joe Lobo

## Secondary Interscholastic Athletic Fund

The primary source of revenue used to support DIAA is derived through ticket sales at state championship events. A special fund has been created at the Department of Education to receive and track revenues and expenditures of the organization. All membership dues, sponsorship funds and revenues from DIAA championships are deposited into this account. The account is administered under the State of Delaware Accounting System in cooperation with the DOE Finance Office.

### Five Year Revenue/Expenditures



**Revenues FY22**

**FY22 Revenue Overview**

DIAA revenues collected for FY22 was \$946,050 to the association for FY22. The fiscal year available cash balance of \$900,000-plus what occurred in previous years, as shown in the chart above, has allowed DIAA to operate without receiving any financial assistance. Although the available balance allows for DIAA to operate without assistance at the beginning of each fiscal year thus far, DIAA may need financial support for basic operations for future fiscal years depending on ticket sales. Available cash balance available to DIAA July 2022 was \$824,500.

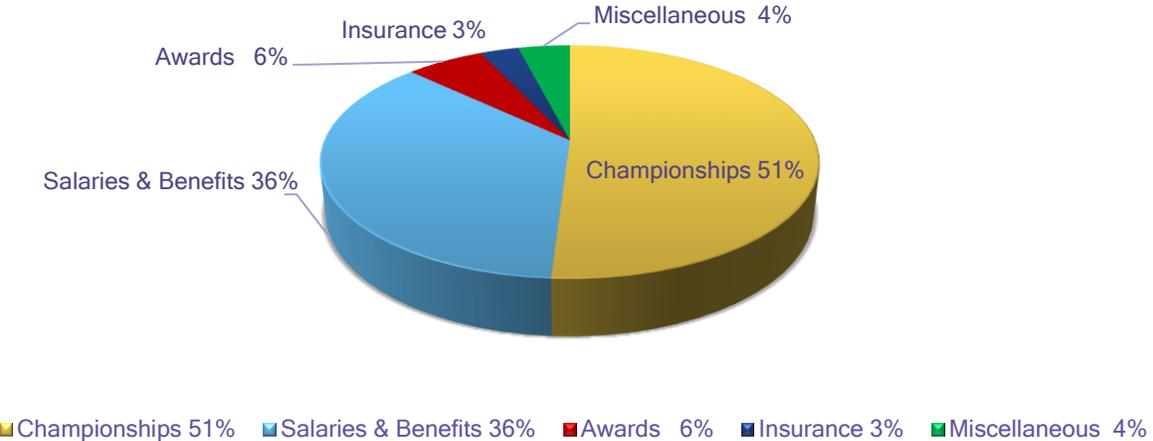
The major source of revenue for DIAA was 1) championships - 77 percent, 2) dues – 10 percent, 3) corporate contracts – 6 percent, 4) sponsorship – 6 percent and 5) miscellaneous – 1 percent.



**Expenses FY22**

**FY22 Expenses Overview**

Expenses for FY22 were \$661,036. The major expenses of the organization are 1) championships – 51 percent includes facility rentals, reimbursement to member schools hosting championships, officials, security, 2) salary & benefits – 36 percent, 3) awards – 6 percent, 4) insurance – 3 percent and 5) miscellaneous – 4 percent.



## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

### DIAA Operations

DIAA rolled out an AD Portal on the DIAA website as a “one stop shop” for all championship related information and a tool to upload eligibility forms in the portal.

#### Sport Advancement

DIAA Sport Committees assisted with advancing the following sports:

- Softball increased number of teams that participated in the tournament from 16 to 24 and held the championship game at University of Delaware
- Girls lacrosse held semifinal and final round games at Delaware State University
- Girls soccer held its final round games at Delaware State University
- Field hockey held semifinal and final round games at University of Delaware
- Football used a microphone for the referee on the field during 3A, 2A and 1A championship games at University of Delaware
- Boys volleyball recognized as a DIAA sport projected championship during spring 2024
- Emerging sports
  - Girls wrestling held an invitational during Beast of the East for girls
  - Esports under the oversight of DOE Esports Committee held an event under Futures First

### Education and Leadership Development

NFHS conducted a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) book study first with NFHS staff then with state association staff and board members and last conducted a national book study to include students, coaches, officials, etc. DIAA’s executive director and two board members participated in NFHS DEI Book Study reading the book, “From Athletics to Engineering: 8 Ways to Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for All”. DIAA chose to have a NFHS staff member facilitate the book study with DIAA staff and board members. Delaware had 34 people participate in the national book study conducted by NFHS. DIAA board member Mark Robinson was a facilitator for the NFHS national book study.

DIAA partnered with Delaware’s Office of Women’s Advancement and Advocacy to present a Title IX overview to athletic directors during Delaware Association of Athletic Directors (DAAD) April meeting.

DIAA conducted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Vaping Education Viewing Contest. DIAA partnered with the American Lung Association through the Delaware Division of Public Health Tobacco Prevention Community Grant to sponsor a video viewing contest to educate Delaware students about the health dangers of e-cigarette and vaping usage. The video “Understanding Vaping and E-Cigarettes” from NFHS Learning Center was viewed the most by Delaware Military Academy students.

DIAA conducted a two-day leadership conference at Milford High School for Kent and Sussex County student athletes and at Delcastle Technical High School for New Castle County student athletes. The day featured Dr. Brittany Hazzard who spoke on understanding being a leader and the student athlete experience and DIAA Executive Director Donna Polk introduced the purpose of DIAA’s newly created Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

DIAA secured a speaker, Chanelle S. Reynolds (author, speaker and NFL executive), to present on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the athletic world session during DOE’s Equity Summit in October 2022.

DIAA secured a speaker, Alva Amaker (A&A Athletic Consulting, LLC) to present on event and risk management during DAAD’s October 2022 meeting.

## Recognition/Awards

Delaware was highlighted in the national NFHS #TitleIXat50 campaign featuring Executive Director Donna Polk who was recognized as a Title IX Trailblazer, Wilmington Friend's 1964 girls tennis team was celebrated as the first team to win a girls DIAA championship, and Elena Delle Donne was also highlighted for her accomplishments as a professional basketball player.

Alycia Jefferson, athletic director at MOT Charter, was recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) as a certified athletic administrator. To earn this distinction, Jefferson demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience, and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination.

Congratulations to Delaware Military Academy on being a recipient of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Award at the Exemplary Level. The NIAAA award recognizes excellence in implementation and administration of a high school athletics program. The Quality Program Award also recognizes the continuing research and implementation of professional benchmarks and best practices through evidence-based criteria of philosophy, educational compatibility, mentoring staff and students, program safety and risk management, program access and equity, budget and supplemental fundraising, personnel and program assessment, technology, sports medicine, and innovation and creative leadership strategies.

### Scholarship

The winners of the 2022 DIAA/Harry Roberts Senior Scholar-Athlete awards are listed below. The award is named in memory of Dr. Harry Roberts, former superintendent of the Caesar Rodney School District who served DIAA on several committees, most notably as chair of the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee for many years. The awards are presented annually by the DIAA based on a student's academic, athletic and leadership achievements. The award amounts are as follows:

- *First place - \$2,000 Benjamin Williamson, Conrad Schools of Science and Brynn McCabe, Indian River High School*
- *Second place - \$1,500 Ethan Hann-Deschaine, Brandywine and Mary Catherine Anson, Newark Charter School*
- *Third place - \$1,000 Flynn Miller, Newark Charter School and Rylee Waslyn, Concord High School*



### Sportsmanship

DIAA announced winners of the 2021-2022 Dale Farmer Champions in Sportsmanship award on September 13, 2022. The member schools compete against a set of 10 standards, not against other schools. Member schools submit an extensive portfolio that is judged by the Sportsmanship Committee to determine if each school has successfully met the standards. The award is named in honor of former DSSAA Executive Director Dale Farmer. The 11 winning schools are listed below. Thirty-seven different member schools have now won this award at least once in the 24-year history of the award.



School	Times Won	School	Times Won
William Penn HS	25	Charter School of Wilmington	9
Sussex Tech HS	16	Newark Charter School	7
McKean HS	13	Brandywine HS	6
Conrad Schools of Science	13	Middletown HS	6
Concord	13	Mt. Pleasant HS	6
Caravel Academy	13	Delaware Military Academy	2
Caesar Rodney HS	12	Talley Middle School	1
Sanford School	11		

### Officials

Officials for all sports throughout Delaware were on the decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aging officials and poor sportsmanship by spectators, coaches and participants. Due to lack of officials to cover events, many contest dates and times were altered. Although numbers have improved during the 2022 year, recruitment and retention of officials remains a priority.

Officials fees and officials pay continues to be a hot topic for officials.

## State Championships



During calendar year 2022, the following schools won DIAA state championships in the sports as listed:

### Winter 2022

Basketball	Boys		Tower Hill School
Basketball	Girls		Caravel Academy
Basketball	Unified		Dover High School
Swimming & Diving	Boys		Salesianum School
Swimming & Diving	Girls		Tower Hill School
Indoor Track and Field	Boys		Salesianum School
Indoor Track and Field	Girls		Padua Academy
Dual Team Wrestling	Boys		Cape Henlopen High School

### Spring 2022

Baseball	Boys		Cape Henlopen High School
Lacrosse	Boys		Salesianum School
Lacrosse	Girls		Cape Henlopen High School
Softball	Girls		Caravel Academy
Soccer	Girls	DI	Padua Academy
Soccer	Girls	DII	Saint Mark's High School
Tennis	Boys		Tower Hill School
Tennis	Girls		Wilmington Friends School
Outdoor Track and Field	Boys	DI	Salesianum School
Outdoor Track and Field	Girls	DI	Padua Academy
Outdoor Track and Field	Boys	DII	Saint Mark's High School
Outdoor Track and Field	Girls	DII	Saint Mark's/Tatnall
Outdoor Track and Field	Unified Track		Cape Henlopen High School
Golf			Sussex Academy

### Fall 2022

Cross Country	Boys	DI	Salesianum School
Cross Country	Girls	DI	Padua Academy
Cross Country	Boys	DII	Tatnall School
Cross Country	Girls	DII	St. Andrews School
Field Hockey	Girls	DI	Smyrna High School
Field Hockey	Girls	DII	Delmar High School
Football	Boys	Class 1A	Laurel High School
Football	Boys	Class 2A	Wilmington Friends School
Football	Boys	Class 3A	Smyrna High School
Football	Boys	Unified	Caesar Rodney High School
Soccer	Boys	DI	Salesianum School
Soccer	Boys	DII	Caravel Academy
Volleyball	Girls		Tower Hill School

Individual champions were crowned in indoor track, individual wrestling, swimming and diving, and cross-country. Thirty-five team titles were awarded by DIAA in 2022. Fifteen different schools won at least one team state championship. The Nonconference Schools won the most team titles at 15 with Nonconference Salesianum School earning the most team championships with six. A complete listing of team champions can be found at [https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/sport\\_championships/](https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/sport_championships/)

Schools	Conference	# of championships
Salesianum School	Nonconference	6
Padua Academy	Nonconference	4
Cape Henlopen	Henlopen	4
Tower Hill School	Independent	4
Saint Mark's High School	Nonconference	3
Caravel Academy	Nonconference	2
Smyrna High School	Henlopen	2
Tatnall School	Independent	2
Wilmington Friends School	Independent	2
Caesar Rodney High School	Henlopen	1
Delmar High School	Henlopen	1
Dover High School	Henlopen	1
Laurel High School	Henlopen	1
Sussex Academy	Henlopen	1
St. Andrews School	Diamond State	1
Sanford School	Independent	1
Tatnall School	Independent	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>

### Conference Totals

15 - Nonconference

11 - Henlopen

8 - Independent

1 - Diamond State

0 - Blue Hen

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

### Go-Fan

DIAA continues its partnership with Go-Fan for the second year, a digital ticketing platform that provides a ticketless, cashless and contactless experience for DIAA championship events. All spring 2022 and fall 2022 championship events were ticketless, which enhanced DIAA ticket management operations. DIAA received positive feedback from member schools hosting championship events surrounding ticket management and operations and negative feedback has been received from fans regarding the cashless system and fees.

### Dragonfly

Through a partnership with the NFHS, DIAA went paperless to administer official's registrations to use the Center for Official's Services (COS) through the Dragonfly platform. Dragonfly is a hub for all officials' registrations, tracking official's eligibility requirements, officials testing platform and for officials to submit NFHS and DIAA payments. DIAA successfully worked with 19 local official associations in 14 different sports to transition to the new platform.

### Unified Sports

DIAA continued its relationship with Special Olympics Delaware (SODE) for the ninth year. With the continued partnership, DIAA and SODE work closely to offer unified football, basketball and outdoor track programs.

### Marketing Special Promotions

DIAA continued its partnership with Delaware-based Marketing Special Promotions (MSP) to provide championship apparel for students and spectators of DIAA State Championship events.

### American Lung Association

In partnership with the American Lung Association through the Delaware Division of Public Health's tobacco prevention community contract, DIAA was awarded a \$8,500 grant again for the 2022-2023 academic year to educate student and parents about the dangers of tobacco and vaping use and to promote the benefits of healthy adolescent lifestyles. The messaging will be delivered during DIAA State Championship events via giveaways at the event, emails, press releases, public service announcements, livestream ads, program ads, scoreboard messages, signage, and on DIAA's social media channels.

### Wilson/Spalding

DIAA continued its partnership agreements with the following: Wilson (football, basketball, baseball, soccer, and tennis) and Spalding/Dudley (volleyball and softball) to provide game balls at no expense for DIAA state championship events.

### American Dairy Association North East (ADANE)

DIAA continued its partnership with the ADANE Milk Marketing Agency via its "REFUEL, got Chocolate Milk" campaign.

## Championships

DIAA member schools hosted most DIAA winter 2022, spring 2022 and fall 2022 state championship games. Higher seeded teams hosted first, second, most quarterfinal and semifinal round games. University of Delaware hosted softball finals, girls volleyball finals, field hockey semifinal and finals, football finals, girls and boys basketball semifinal and finals, unified finals, girls and boys preliminary and finals swimming championships. Delaware State University hosted girls soccer finals and girls lacrosse semifinal and finals, University of Maryland Eastern Shore hosted indoor track championships, Odessa National Golf Club hosted golf championships while Frawley Stadium hosted baseball semifinals and finals. Cross country championships were held at Killens Pond State Park, Dover High School hosted boys soccer finals and outdoor track championships, Caravel Academy hosted boys lacrosse finals, Smyrna High School hosted dual wrestling semifinal and finals and Cape Henlopen hosted individual wrestling championships while St. Andrews School hosted tennis semifinals and finals.

## National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Membership

DIAA has been a member of the NFHS since January 1945. The NFHS serves its member associations, related professional organizations, and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities that support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities. NFHS is the nationally recognized expert in the area of writing the playing rules for most interscholastic sports and it is recognized as the leader in research and policy advocacy in the area of sport safety for interscholastic athletes.

**NFHS Network** - DIAA continues to be a part of the NFHS Network. The network is a partnership between the NFHS and NFHS state associations. The network web streams state championship games on the internet for a fee. Locally, 302 Sports has been contracted by NFHS Network as the production company for all DIAA Tournament events.

**Representation on National Committees** - DIAA and our member schools continue to support and provide expertise to NFHS national committees. With the exception of the Football Rules Committee, all associated expenses for participation on these committees are paid by the NFHS.

The following Delawareans served on NFHS Committees in 2022:

- James Connor (St. Georges), National Coaches Advisory
- Jan-Patrick “JP” Bennett (DIAA State Interpreter), Boys Lacrosse Rules
- Ethel ”Feffie” Barnhill (Ursuline), Girls Lacrosse Rules
- Andrew Bero (DIAA State Interpreter), NFHS Football Rules
- Dorinda Toney (Field Hockey Official), NFHS Field Hockey Rules
- Donna Polk (DIAA), NFHS Technology
- Stephanie Mark (DIAA), NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rules

## Upcoming Regulations for DIAA Consideration

- Amendments to Regulation 1009 Coaching Out of Season
- Regulation Restructuring for editorial and clarification
- Transfer Regulation
- Student Athlete Enrollment and Participation for Another Member School
- Amateurism Rules due to recent NCAA Name, Image and Likeness
- Season Start Dates

## DIAA Areas of Opportunities/Improvement

- Creation of DIAA Strategic Plan
- Leadership development and trainings for student athletes, coaches, athletic directors and administrators
- Continued website updates to enhance resource offerings for stakeholders and public and features to improve office workflow processes
- Working with Websites4sports (member school website platform for eligibility, scheduling, compliance management and other workflow processes) to create a DIAA platform that will import member school information for reports and enhance DIAA office workflow processes (waiver application upload option, championship reconciliation reports, participation reports, coaches verification requirements, etc.) and assist with member school regulation compliance. DIAA is also working with DOE and DTI to ensure technology and data storage requirements are met.
- Working with local universities and colleges to partner to provide compliance and initial eligibility education.

## DIAA Challenges

- DIAA staffing workload remains a concern to ensure appropriate oversight and management of all areas of responsibility for the association
- Available facility to conduct indoor track championships
- Board meeting time devoted to conducting waivers during board meetings
- Quorum issues during board meetings
- Compliance management/oversight
- Sportsmanship concerns during sporting events from fans, coaches and student athletes
- Officials shortage – looking at recruiting efforts and ideas

## DIAA Hot Topics

- Transfers/recruitment Practices and Policies
- Compliance Management
- Recruitment and Retention of Officials
- Division classification vs three-tier classification
- Name, Image and Likeness
- Basketball Shot Clock
- Mental Health Awareness
- Fulltime athletic trainers and athletic directors
- Eighth grade participation at the high school level

*If there are any questions regarding this report or any other interest in the business of DIAA, please contact DIAA Board Chairperson Doug Thompson or DIAA Executive Director Donna Polk at 302-857-3366.*

